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The Elvish New Year & the Memorial Victory Celebration of the Destruction of the Ring

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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

Albuquerque, New Mexico • Postponed to: July 30 – August 2, 2021



Abstract

Saturday, March 22 (Astron I), was born with a miraculous blue sky and golden sun in tribute to the celebration of the Elven New Year and the Destruction of The Ring by the Mythopoeic Society at Arroyo Seco Park in Highland Park, a northern suburb of Los Angeles.

Additional Keywords

New Year; Elves; Tolkien; Lord of the Rings



THE ELVISH NEW YEAR & the MEMORIAL VICTORY CELEBRATION OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE RING



reported by Gerald Rioux

The sky once again opened and released its fury in projectiles of water upon the soaked lands of Southern California as Elves and Elf friends anticipated the Elven New Year.

On Saturday, March 22 (Astron 1), was born with a miraculous blue sky and golden sun in tribute to the celebration of the Elven New Year and the Destruction of The Ring by the Mythopoeic Society at Arroyo Seco Park in Highland Park, a northern suburb of Los Angeles. Tolkien fans of Southern California, nearly 200 of them, flocked to the green haven wedged between the concrete Los Angeles River and the Pasadena Freeway in costume as their favorite character in The Lord of The Rings for the noon-dusk picnic.

The Hobbit-In started with people finding hidden colored eggs. They contained messages from Glen GoodKnight, the picnic's leader and organizer.

He came as Elrond, in simple dark green cloak, silver circlet and pointed ears. Later there was a mushroom roll. The object was to roll a mushroom fifty feet on the lawn by your nose.

Bjo Trimble decorated the park with banners and many people decorated themselves with daisy chains. The chains, made by girls at the picnic from tiny daisies growing in the lawn, were worn around the neck and forehead. To add to the setting, minstrels strummed and sang. There were also informal demonstrations of medieval sword fighting going on in the background.

As the day progressed there were Middle Earth folk Dances (Jewish really). Following them was a parade around the park to display the beautiful costumes and to scare the local people and police. Then came the costume judging. Tolkien, or more precisely Dr. Totten in academic robes and hat as Tolkien, was the most original and surprising. Pat Lammerts, who came as a Barrow-wight, was most authentic with her whitened face and grey cloak. Galadriel, Marj Hoyt, was undoubtedly the most beautiful, and George Barr, a minstrel, was the most handsome. Bonnie Bergstrom was easily the most humorous. She was an ent-wife and needed some of her branches trimmed. Christine Smith as Eowyn-Dernhelm received a deserved honorable mention.

There was then a quiz for Tolkien scholars. John Sadoski, who seemed to know almost all the answers, won. Anyone who hadn't studied the books at least three or four times had no chance. ^{Mike} Saruman, Steve Kahn, gave a magic show. The show included trying to salad ^{out} of his cute assistant's head (Cathy Case).

As the sun sank slowly the festivities were concluded when the Ring was ceremoniously destroyed. It was made of paper-machie magician's flash paper and burst into glorious orange flames. Just before the Ring was burned Glen GoodKnight gave the following speech in oratorical style:

My fellow Tolkien admirers, we have come today to celebrate the glorious beginning of the Elvish New Year. I trust you have enjoyed it as much as I have.

We need now to Commemorate the destruction of The Ring.

Let us remember its forger and maker: Sauron, that perfidious mystery who sought to destroy the joy of living and bring all of Middle Earth under his hedious shadow.

Let us remember Frodo, who in the shelter of Bag End took upon himself the crushing responsibility of the destiny of a whole world; who of his volition was willing, alone if need be, to bear The Ring far away to the very land of the Shadow.

Let us remember Sam, whose faithfulness and love was greater than his desire to be master of The Ring; and thus saved The Ring from being untimely captured. Without his unselfish duty to keep on, the quest would have failed.

Let us remember Smeagol Gollum, once a possessor and possessed by The Ring, yet not totally retrobate. We marvel at the irony and transcending destiny of this creature who was the final instrument in the Ring's destruction.

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Let us remember it took all three: Frodo, Sam, and Gollum to see the quest successful. Without each doing his part, The Ring would surely not have been destroyed. We marvel at the capacity of three individuals to so completely effect a whole world. We feel humbled and grateful.

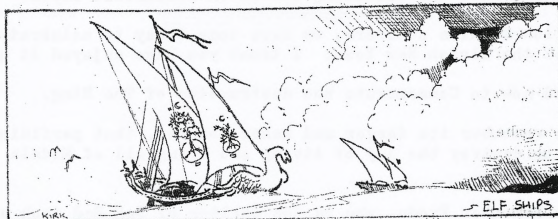
However the Shadow is not gone, but from age to age takes a new form and it is the responsibility of each generation to challenge the Shadow in its new forms.

In our century there is no longer a physical Ring, but there is present the tremendous and malignant power that The Ring represented. Our world is a patchwork paradox of sunshine and shadow. And the Shadow grows. We remember Saruman, One of the Wise, originally sent out from the West to protect Middle Earth, became corrupt by his desire for The Ring and the power it promised him. There is that capacity in each of us.

Our inner selves demand an end to the Rings of Power; to the shadows that would choke and destroy life, creativity, and growth. Let us take the example of the hobbits who showed the value of individuals against the power of vast blind forces.

Then, as now, victory comes through the agency of individuals. Let us determine to affirm within us those things that engender life and love.

And let the realm of Mordor be fallen; let the spiritual shadows flee. Let there be both within and without, NO MORE RINGS!



Narnia Conference?

The Mythopoeic Society would like to sponsor a Narnia Conference in the later part of this year. Whether the conference will actually be held depends on response to this announcement. We need to know tentative titles for papers to be given. I am considering writing a paper on "The Lillith figure in the Narnia books."

Are you interested? Are you enthused? If so, please let me know. - Ed.

By the way, our Typist - Helen Chester - unfortunately wasn't able to do all the typing. The typing done in this type face and the letter column were done by yours truly; don't blame Helen for that. - Ed.